

Montana DEQ Forest Fire Smoke Advisory

September 6, 2007

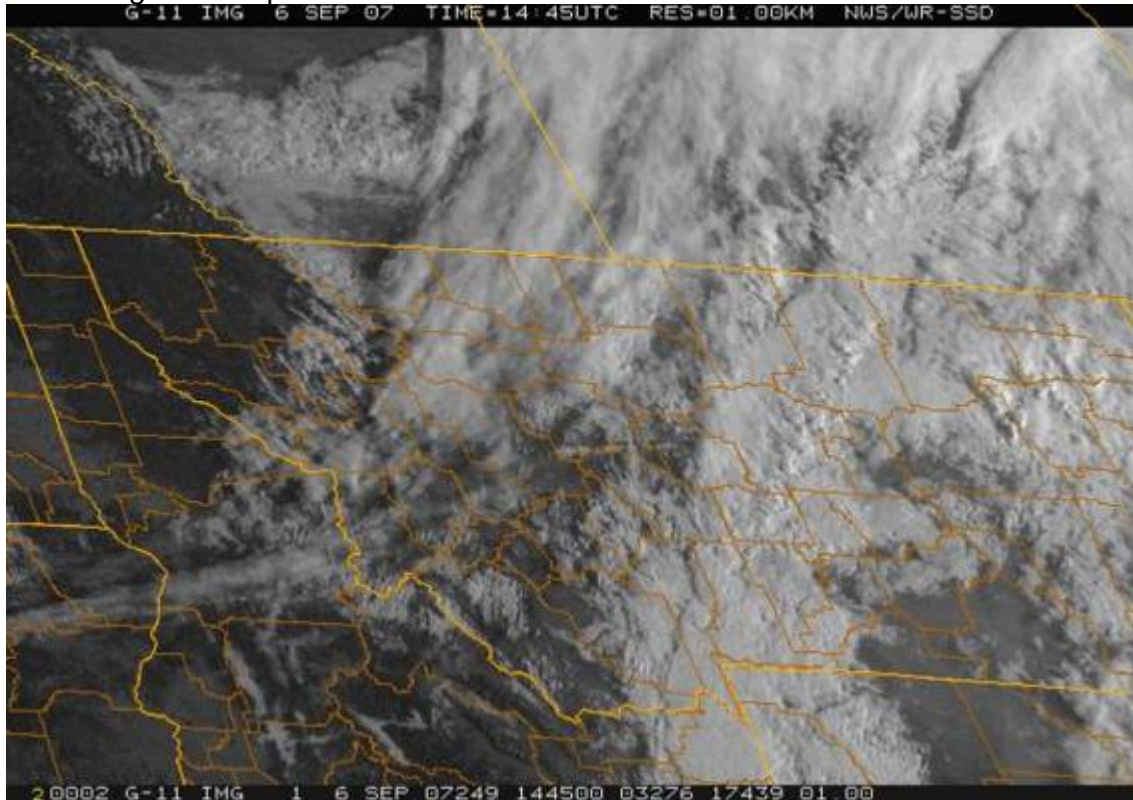
10:00 AM Thursday

FORECAST:

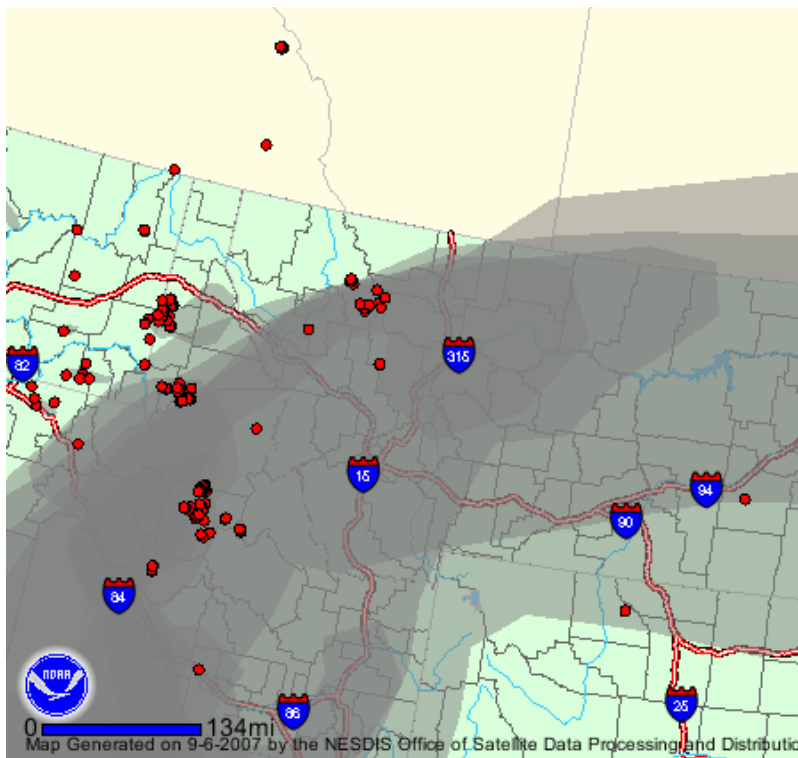
Smoke levels are much improved today but there is still some smoke stuck in the northern Flathead Valley.

A strong push of air from the northwest is pushing out the residual smoke in most areas. The clear air aloft hasn't made it's way down to the surface yet in some western valley but is expected to do so by this afternoon for much improved visibility and fresher smelling air across the western half of the state. Smoke production was minimal yesterday and should be light again today with good to excellent dispersion. Residents noticing smoke from local fires should use the [VISIBILITY GUIDELINES](#) to determine smoke levels in their area and guide their activity decisions.

A morning satellite photo centered on Great Falls is below:



This morning's analysis from NOAA's satellite services division shows the active fires in Montana and the smoke plumes combining and spreading downwind (the analyzed smoke is based on yesterday's satellite coverage, the fire detects are based on last night's satellite coverage).



Red indicates hot spot detected. Grey represents smoke seen by satellite.
Fire size is exaggerated for visibility at this scale.

To identify individual fires on graphic above go here:

http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lq_fire2.php

This morning's smoke report is below, comparing particulate levels where we have information to MDEQ's Forest Fire health advisory levels.

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DISCUSSION:

Conditions are generally much improved this morning as cooler wetter weather has sharply reduced the fire activity and a push of air from the northwest is moving smoke out of many areas. There is still some smoke sloshing around the northern Flathead Valley and Kalispell is at [UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE](#) right now. [MODERATE](#) levels of smoke are still impacting areas around Whitefish, Missoula, Hamilton, and Great Falls. Conditions are expected to steadily improve through the day with lots of blue sky and much sweeter air.

The advisories in the table below represent conditions between midnight and 8 AM and may change substantially through the day. Residents downwind of the active fires noticing smoke impacts should use the [visibility guidelines](#) to determine current conditions.

[John Coefield](#)

Meteorologist

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Locations and severity of forest fire smoke reports since midnight of the date above at reporting stations.

Real time particulate information is currently available in most of the larger urban areas from several different sources including: DEQ run PM-10 BAMS and PM2.5 BAMS, CS&KT run PM-10 TEOMS, NWS ASOS visibility monitors, and USFS remote access Nephelometers and BAMS.

Updated 10 AM September 6, 2007

These advisories represent conditions between midnight and 8 AM and may change substantially through the day

HAZARDOUS	
VERY UNHEALTHY	
UNHEALTHY	
UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS	Kalispell T8
MODERATE	Whitefish T8 Missoula T8 Hamilton T24 Great Falls Vis(1)

T1(x)	One-hour TEOM or BAM value (number of values)
T8(x)	Eight-hour average TEOM or BAM value(number of values)
T24	24 hour average TEOM or BAM value
Vis(x)	Visibility value(number of hours)
Vis(am/pm)	Visibility value from twice/day reporting stations
(est)	estimate

Local impacts in areas immediately adjacent to active fires are expected to exceed some or all of the advisory levels. DEQ recommends the use of local [visibility guidelines](#) to evaluate possible health risks and make informed activity decisions.